

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Transformative Childcare for Australia

Parliament passed a landmark law that will change the lives of over 126,000 children and their families across Australia. The Early Childhood Education and Care (Three Day Guarantee) Bill 2025 ensures that every Australian family can now access three days of subsidised early learning each week, effectively eliminating the controversial Activity Test that previously created significant barriers to learning.

The Activity Test had restricted access to subsidised early learning services, placing low-income, rural, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at a disadvantage. However, this crucial reform guarantees that all children will now have an equal opportunity to play, learn, and make friends.

Terese Edwards, Chief Executive of Single Mother Families Australia, praised this accomplishment as a major milestone, stating, "Today marks a pivotal moment for Australia's families, and the reform highlights the importance we place on quality care." With the enactment of this law and the removal of the restrictive Activity Test, over 126,000 children from primarily lower-income households will now benefit from early learning opportunities that can positively impact their lives.

Furthermore, more than 40,000 primary caregivers—predominantly women—will find it easier to fill casual and on-call shifts, return to the workforce, and do those time-consuming non-direct parenting tasks or pursue studies while knowing their child is in a safe and nurturing learning environment. This is a transformative step forward for families nationwide, and the challenging balancing act just got easier.

Research shows that high-quality early childhood care and education can pave the way for future success. Yet, barriers like the Activity Test, high costs and limited availability have kept many families from accessing these essential resources, creating an unnecessary gap between those who could and could not access childcare. "Sometimes rules get in the way of families, and the Activity Test was one of those unwanted rules," says Edwards.

This new law represents a significant advancement in breaking down the obstacles many children face when seeking early learning opportunities and reaffirms the importance of care for all families. "We thank the Australian Government for their vision of a three-day guarantee, the members of parliament who supported the legislation and the many advocates who work hard to make this happen. Families struggling to meet costs will feel heard, relieved, and optimistic. Every child deserves every chance."

Media Comment Terese Edwards 0439211493

Notes: [Single Mother Families Australia](#) is a lead national voice for single mothers Australia-wide and has consistently advocated for the [removal](#) of the Activity Test. Terese Edwards, a member of the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce. The Taskforce, [provided advice](#) (May 2023) and [a final report](#) (October 2023) seeking the removal of the Activity Test.

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